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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/768,331 | 01/25/2001 | Takashi Suzuki | 862.C2097 | 3930 |
| 5514 | 7590 | 09/24/2004 | | |
| FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112 | | | | |
| | | | EXAMINER PHAM, THIERRY L | |
| | | | ART UNIT 2624 | PAPER NUMBER |

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/768,331

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI ET AL.

Examiner

Thierry L Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2-4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The following title is suggested: Image forming apparatus for preventing forgery.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Katoh et al (U.S. 5845008).

Regarding claim 1, Katoh discloses an image processing apparatus (image processing device, fig. 1, col. 8, lines 48-50) characterized by comprising:

(1) a determiner (pattern detecting device for detecting and determining whether the document contains any confidential patterns, fig. 1) for determining whether image data contains specific information (pattern information such as banknotes, abstract and col. 1, lines 35-42) for at least one block (i.e. reference #6, fig. 36) extracted from the image data; and

(2) an image processor (pattern matching device, fig. 1) for executing predetermined processing for the image data which is determined by said determiner to contain the specific information (pattern matching device for matching detected pattern with predetermined pattern, col. 4, lines 5-60).

Regarding claim 2, Katoh further discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the specific information is predetermined image data (predetermined

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pattern, abstract and cols. 5-6), and said determiner performs the determination on the basis of at least the one block (fig. 37, cols. 5-6) and the predetermined image data.

Regarding claim 3, Katoh further discloses the apparatus according to claim 2, characterized in that said determiner comprises a detector (position detection unit for detecting position of the detected pattern within the documents, fig. 9, col. 5, lines 32-67 and col. 8, lines 65-67) for detecting, from entire image data, position information related to a position where the specific information is contained, and determines whether the specific information is contained on the basis of the position information detected by said detection means.

Regarding claim 4, Katoh further discloses the apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that said detector detects the information related to the position using position detection image data obtained by decreasing resolution of the image data (reducing resolution, col. 4, lines 18-30), and said determiner determines presence/absence (determining whether the confidential patterns are incorporated within the documents, col. 19, lines 60-67 to col. 20, lines 1-48) of the specific information from the image data.

Regarding claim 5, Katoh further discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, characterized by further comprising an image scanner (scanner, col. 4, lines 44-47) for generating the image data.

Regarding claims 6-7, Katoh further discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the image data is image data for printing (printer, col. 4, lines 44-47).

Regarding claim 8, Katoh further discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that said processor executes processing of converting density (density

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conversion, col. 13, lines 25-40) or brightness of the image data as the predetermined processing.

Regarding claim 9, Katoh further discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that said processor erases (col. 15, lines 20-30) the image data as the predetermined processing.

Regarding claim 10, Katoh further discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the block has the same size (fig. 6, col. 15, lines 5-20) as that of a block having a predetermined size as a unit of image data transfer in said image processing apparatus.

Regarding claim 11, Katoh further discloses the apparatus according to claim 10, characterized in that said determiner comprises detection means for detecting (position detection unit for detecting position of the detected pattern, fig. 9, col. 5, lines 32-67 and col. 8, lines 65-67), from entire image data, position information related to a position where the specific information is contained, specifies at least the one block from the image data on the basis of the position information detected by said detection means, and determines for at least the one block whether the specific information is contained.

Regarding claim 12, Katoh further discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the block is a band obtained by segmenting the image data along a direction of a line of pixels (segmenting, col. 4, lines 4-24).

Regarding claim 13, Katoh further discloses the apparatus according to claim 12, characterized in that the band is a block obtained by segmenting the image data at a line having uniform color and density (figs. 20-24, col. 20, lines 60+).

Regarding claims 14-26: Claims 14-26 are the method claims corresponding to the apparatus claims 1-13 (respectively). The method claims are inherent and included

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by the operation of the apparatus claims. Please see claims rejection basis/rationale as described in claims 1-13 above.

Regarding claims 27-40: Claims 27-40 correspond to claim 1-13 except computer readable memory medium for storing program is claimed rather than printing system or data output apparatus. All computers have some type of computer readable memory medium (memory, fig. 2) for storing computer program, hence claims 27-40 would be rejected using the same rationale as in claims 1-13.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- (1) U.S. 5621810 to Suzuki, discloses a method/apparatus for preventing forgery.
- (2) U.S. 6091844 to Fujii, discloses a method/apparatus for preventing forgery.
- (3) U.S. 5390003 to Yamaguchi, discloses a method/apparatus for preventing forgery.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L Pham whose telephone number is (703) 305-1897. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K Moore can be reached on (703)308-7452. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thierry L. Pham



GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER